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**ELLIS
GUILFORD
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Monday, 14th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Review of week one at Ellis Guilford

Following our first full week at school, I wanted to share with you my thoughts about the week and what to expect as we move forward throughout the term.

Firstly, I am absolutely committed to doing my best for your child. To do this, we need to ensure high expectations and standards in all that the school does. We have, therefore, introduced clearer and higher pupil expectations. Mr Gissendorf has written a detailed letter outlining our expectations together with a parent guide which explains them in more detail. We know that for pupils to succeed, expectations need to be high, understood and applied consistently throughout the school. By doing this and by also introducing a positive rewards programme, pupils will be able to learn effectively in the classroom, be safe and, most importantly, happy.

I have been highly impressed with the standard of uniform worn by our pupils. Thank you for ensuring your child leaves each morning wearing the correct dress code. I am a firm believer that uniform plays a large part in supporting a good attitude to learning in the classroom. Pupils this week have, overall, worn their uniform immaculately. Footwear, in particular, has been impressive.

Whilst in school, correct equipment for learning is essential. We have, as you will be aware, supplied all students with a clear pencil case containing pens, pencil etc., whilst offering a new school bag to pupils where needed. The uptake has been good, and it is great to see our pupils entering school each day, ready to learn.

YOUR CHILD WILL BE TAKING BOOKS HOME EACH DAY AFTER SCHOOL. PLEASE HELP THEM BY CHECKING THEY BRING THEM BACK FOR THEIR LESSONS TO AVOID PAPER BEING GIVEN OUT. 'BEAUTIFUL BOOKS' IS OUR EXPECTATION, WITH ALL PUPILS SHOWING A PRIDE IN THEIR WORK AND PRESENTATION.



We have organised our school into year group 'bubbles' as recommended by government guidance. These are working well. Teachers travel to pupils in their classrooms. Pupils are required to wear their masks whilst awaiting a teacher in the corridor and other indoor spaces. Pupils line up in a morning, we check uniform and equipment, pupils are asked to put on their masks whilst they walk in single file into school. Plain masks are being worn by many pupils, though there is a small group in each year that do not bring a mask to school.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS A PLAIN FACE MASK EACH DAY AND A CLEAR PLASTIC BAG IN WHICH IT IS PLACED DURING LESSONS.

In lessons, we have seen excellent attitudes to learning from our pupils. Well done to them! Last year, the school had far too many supply teachers each day. I will be determined to reduce this. We have employed our own cover supervisors to make sure we limit any external supply. I will keep you informed about our progress.

The school's senior leadership team has also seen changes. Mr Gissendorf leads behaviour and attendance, Ms Aris, the quality of your child's education and Mr Fugill academic standards and the curriculum. It is the expectation that the senior leadership team visits every classroom each day.

Attendance at Ellis Guilford has improved since the end of last year, prior to lockdown. We all know that strong attendance and punctuality to school are key to a child's success. Many students arrive to school on time, looking smart, ready for the day ahead. Well done to all pupils who come to school every morning at the right time.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL EACH AND EVERY DAY ON TIME. WE HAVE A MEMBER OF THE ATTENDANCE TEAM ON DUTY EVERY DAY. THREE TIMES LATE WILL RESULT IN A ONE HOUR DETENTION.

You will be aware of the teething problems with our catering provider. We treat any catering problems extremely seriously. We have listened to your feedback and we have acted quickly to improve it. We met with the catering company and set out a plan which begins this week. One new strategy will be to introduce the popular 'grab and go' bags which contain a sandwich, fruit, drink and a dessert. From today, students will be able to pre-order these and menus will be published in full week in advance. Menus will also be published on the school's website.



We have introduced new seating areas for the pupils, where they can 'chat and chill' or have their food. These are popular: students can eat their meal or chat to friends. We are committed to increasing and further improving the number of seating and eating spaces for our children.

I sent a letter out during the first week, reminding parents/carers about the visits to the school and the need to make an appointment. Could I remind parents/carers of the **NECESSITY OF MAKING AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE GOING TO THE SCHOOL.**

Finally, the first week has been excellent overall: feedback from pupils and staff has been very positive. We will need to work together to make sure your child's experience of the school is the best it can be.

I look forward to my next update and the opportunity of meeting you in person. A well done to pupils for a really good first week back. They have adapted to the reopening very well indeed!

Your sincerely,

Mr Chris Keen
Principal